

## WRITING INSTRUMENTS

**S**ince almost the beginning of time, it has been man's desire to create the written word, in order to educate, inform, inspire and to simply show proof of existence. Writing tools started out as simple chalky rocks or charred sticks but quickly evolved into the first pens. Pencils appeared soon after. Other writing instruments such as markers and crayons are more recent late nineteenth, twentieth-century creations.

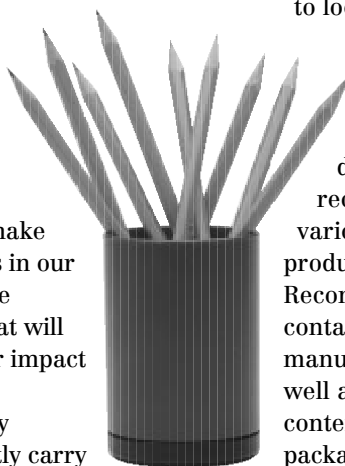
Today, the writing instrument industry is booming and sales have reached over 3 billion dollars per year. These writing implements have become a part of our daily lives and we often throw them away without a second thought. For example, every year Americans discard 1.6 million pens. Placed end to end, they would stretch 151 miles – equivalent to crossing the state of Rhode Island almost 4 times!

Although we throw them away, they can impact the environment in ways we do not often think about. Pens, pencils and markers are often tossed into the garbage and not recycled or reused. Their components and packaging are made from non-renewable resources and can contain environmentally damaging chemicals. These too are discarded into our landfills or incinerated.

As consumers, however, we can make educated decisions in our purchasing of these items—decisions that will help to lessen their impact upon our natural environment. Many companies presently carry

one to several lines of products which have positive environmental attributes. These attributes include recycled content, refillable options, non-toxic inks and more environmentally responsible packaging.

This *Choose Green Report* will discuss these advantages and what to look for when making writing instrument purchases. Green Seal has surveyed manufacturers and distributors and has recommended products in various categories for our product table. The Recommended Products Table contains information on manufacturers and brands, as well as information on recycled content, "refillability", packaging and availability.



## Pencils

A typical pencil consists of a thin cylinder of graphite mixed with clay and enclosed in wood (usually cedar), metal or plastic for ease in gripping. The first pencil appeared around 1400. Although the term "lead pencil" is commonly used, this is a misconception. Pencils have always been made from graphite (once considered to be a form of lead). In 1896, an American inventor discovered a process to make graphite from coke. Virtually all pencils manufactured in the U.S. now use this process instead of natural graphite. The first mechanical pencil appeared as early as 1822. It was created in order to be rid of the "nuisance" of sharpening. But the public's affection for the traditional wood and graphite pencil has remained and mechanical pencil sales remain comparatively small. Nationwide, pencils account for \$121 million in annual sales.

Many pencil manufacturers carry a brand of pencils that are made with some percentage of

*Green Seal recommends selecting pencils that have a recycled content or are made from material that would otherwise be placed into our waste stream.*

recycled content. Pencils are being made from everything from discarded blue jeans, to cardboard containers and newspapers, to old money! Some entrepreneurs have even developed unique pencils made from

agricultural waste, dead twigs and parts of invasive trees. Many are producing mechanical pencils, which are often designed to be refilled.

When choosing a pencil to buy, Green Seal recommends selecting pencils that have a recycled content or are made of a material that would otherwise be placed into our waste stream (like furniture cast-offs). If using mechanical pencils, always use the refillable kind. Always look for pencils and refills that are packed in recycled or lightweight packaging. This should be clearly indicated on the package itself.

found that goose quills could hold ink and deliver it to a nib. Ink-storing fountain pens appeared in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They were first manufactured in great quantity by L.E. Waterman in 1884 and they were extremely popular. The ballpoint came along approximately half a century later and was created partly out of necessity. The military during World War II needed great numbers of rugged and reliable pens that were not as temperamental as the fountain pen. By 1949, sales of ballpoints far out-numbered those of fountain pens. The rolling-ball pen is the most recent of pen innovations.

Today the choice of pen manufacturers, as well as pen brands is as vast as their

*Green Seal recommends pens that are recycled and/or refillable and that have non-toxic inks.*

applications. When choosing a pen, Green Seal recommends pens with a recycled and/or refillable attribute. Choosing a recycled pen keeps plastic, wood, and sometimes

metal from becoming a part of our growing waste stream. Remember to look for pens with non-toxic inks, as well.

Recycled pens often incorporate recycled, colored HDPE (high density polyethylene)

#2, other HDPE, LDPE (low density polyethylene), or PS (polystyrene). Colored HDPE is found in such items as soda and other types of

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## Pens

The first "pen" appeared around 1500 B.C. when the Egyptians used reeds that were split or carved so that the ends could apply ink. The first quill pen appeared 2000 years later when monks during the Roman Empire (who had little access to reeds)



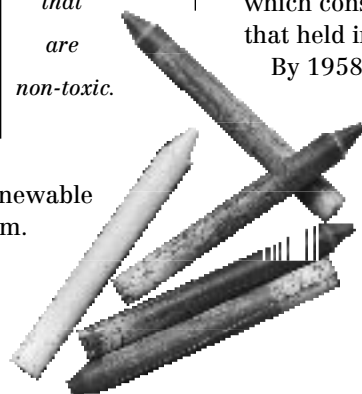
colored bottles and is prized for its resistance to breakage and its low cost. Clear HDPE is used to make milk jugs and detergent bottles, while LDPE is most often found in plastic bags. PS is used to make such items as yogurt cups, plates and cutlery. Pens will also occasionally incorporate recycled metals, such as copper, into their design.

By choosing a refillable option, only the internal rod containing the ink and point are thrown away. The outer barrel can be reused a great number of times. Refillable pens are not expensive and neither are their refills. Seek out products with "less packaging" as well, which include pens sold in bulk or those packaged minimally (this should be clearly stated on the packaging). Look for recycled and recyclable packaging.

## Crayons

Crayons were invented approximately 100 years ago and until recently, little has changed from the petroleum-based paraffin wax crayon that America has become familiar with. These American icons however, were made with a dwindling, non-renewable resource-petroleum.

*Green Seal recommends choosing crayons made from a renewable resource (like soybeans) that are non-toxic.*



In 1994 this was all about to change. During that year at Purdue University, as part of an annual contest to develop new soybean products, students created the first crayon made from soybeans. All of the paraffin wax was replaced with soybean oil.

Soybean oil is easily obtainable in the U.S., since the U.S. is the world leader in soybean production, producing over 2 billion bushels per year. This would produce well over 1 trillion crayons!

Soybean crayons are now being produced in mass numbers. There are also a few companies which are recycling the traditional petroleum crayons. Green Seal recommends choosing crayons made from a renewable resource whenever possible. All crayons manufactured today should be non-toxic and should be clearly marked as such on the packaging. If crayons made from a renewable resource are not available, choose recycled products.

## Markers

The first marker was probably the felt tip marker, created in the 1940's. It was mainly used for labeling and artistic applications. In 1952, Sidney Rosenthal began marketing his "Magic Marker" which consisted of a glass bottle that held ink and a wool felt wick.

By 1958, the marker had found its way into the home and office, and people used it for lettering, labelling, marking packages and creating posters. The marker was expanded and refined in order to handle specific tasks.

Highlighters and fine-line markers were first seen in the 1970's. Permanent markers also became available around this time. Super fine-points and dry erase markers gained popularity in the 1990's. The recent challenge of marker manufacturers is to make markers that are non-

toxic, and won't give off a strong odor or bleed through papers.

Green Seal recommends seeking out refillable markers that also have non-toxic inks, whenever possible. Although sometimes difficult to find, several manufacturers have made them available. A refillable attribute means raw materials and energy are not needlessly wasted, as with non-refillable markers. Refillable markers either come with refills or are made to be refilled with fresh ink when the pen begins to fade, by opening a tube at the top of the marker and adding more ink. Remember to choose markers that are packaged responsibly.



*Green Seal recommends seeking out refillable markers that also have non-toxic inks.*



# IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER

## A Word On Plastics

Plastics are made from petroleum or derivatives of natural gas, both of which are non-renewable resources. Plastics have become a main ingredient in our everyday lives and U.S. production of plastics averages an annual growth rate of 10%. Plastics offer many advantages to writing instruments, including rigidity, low weight, grip comfort, shatter resistance, style and color.



Yet, although plastic offers a number of advantages to products, most plastic, after consumer use, is landfilled. One-third of all plastics used have a life-span of less than one year, and each American dumps 115 pounds of plastic into the waste stream every year (which includes the plastics from 1.6 million pens). Plastics can contain additives such as colorants, stabilizers, plasticizers and heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. All of these have the potential to contribute to the toxic leachate created in landfills. Sometimes plastics are incinerated instead of being landfilled. When they are burned, plastics release harmful dioxins. Plastic litter can pose threats to marine life and cause aesthetic and economic losses.

Only 1% of plastic is recycled after use. But recycling is very important. For example, you can decrease the amount of energy consumed by 88% by recycling versus creating virgin plastics. Recycling can save money. Half of the waste in the waste stream is packaging waste and the rest includes non-durable consumer

goods like pens and mechanical pencils.

Although almost all plastic is technically recyclable, most is not because recycling infrastructure simply does not exist. Most current recycling efforts have been focused on PET (polyethylene terephthalate) which is contained in soft drink containers (which accounts for only 3% of plastic waste) and milk jugs. There are several major factors limiting plastics recycling. First,

*Each American throws away as much as 1,000 pounds of garbage every year. Thirty percent of all packaging is finding its way into our solid waste stream.*

the recycling of single resins is limited by the lack of ability to separate a mixture of plastic easily (such as those collected at the curbside). Separation is essential because mixing two different resins is like mixing wood with steel and one wrong plastic bottle could ruin the whole

batch! Curbside collection is also expensive and not all areas offer it. In some parts of the country, it can cost as much as \$200 per ton to recycle plastics as compared to \$40 to landfill or incinerate it!

We as consumers must focus a great deal more attention to recycling efforts. Ask questions! Demand recycling legislation and support laws that encourage positive environmental practices! Make the effort to find and utilize

recycling centers. This will encourage aid from county and local governments. Finally, we as consumers must get away from the purchase-consume-dispose mentality. Remember to choose recycled and refillable writing implements.

## Inks

We should be concerned about certain inks because they are made from petroleum-a non-renewable resource; they are not biodegradable; and because they frequently contain harsh chemicals and heavy metals. Some pen and many marker inks are based on water, alcohol, turpentine and wax. They can also contain acetone, ammonia, cresol, ethanol, naphtha, phenol, toluene or xylene and other chemicals. Markers that contain these products can often be identified by their strong smell. Pens often give off a more subtle odor. Many inks, thankfully, now are water-based and non-toxic. Often the packaging will make reference to this fact. Non-toxic by industry standards means that there are not sufficient amount of chemicals contained in the product to be toxic or injurious to humans or to cause health problems (acute or chronic) when used for its normal, intended use.

Most of the environmental concern however, has been not with the inks used in pens but instead with printing inks (which are found on the packaging containing writing instruments). The pigments in these inks can contain toxic heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium that could eventually leach out and cause significant harm to our groundwater supplies and soils when landfilled. If incinerated, the resulting ash could contain heavy-

metal oxides and sulfates which would be released into our air and which require special and costly disposal. The vehicle (the liquid that holds the pigment and allows it to be applied) most often contains petroleum. These types of inks release VOCs when they evaporate during heat-set press processes. VOCs create smog which is a serious threat to our atmosphere. On the other hand, soy-based inks are made from an abundant and renewable resource, do not contain petroleum and contain significantly less VOCs (1-10% as compared to 25-40%). Soy-based inks are also easier to drink and therefore easier to recycle.

## Packaging

Each American throws away as much as 1,000 pounds of garbage every year and at the same time the amount of landfill space is diminishing at a rapid rate. Thirty percent of all packaging is finding its way into our solid waste stream. This garbage has begun to weigh heavily on local governments who are responsible for its disposal. It is essential therefore, that we reduce packaging not only to save resources but also to reduce waste and save precious landfill space. Paper products are the single largest component of landfills and plastics are the third largest. Most of the packaging associated with writing implements is plastic and cardboard.

Yet, throwing away packaging materials and filling up precious landfill space is just one aspect that we need to be concerned with. We must also be concerned with how these materials are manufactured. For example, any paper products involved may contain inks with heavy metals. When manufactured, paper products may be bleached with elemental chlorine or its

derivatives and produce harmful dioxins which are known carcinogens, teratogens, mutagens, and can bioaccumulate and move up through the food chain. The making of plastic packaging may incorporate the use of toxic additives (eg. when coloring plastics) and hazardous processing chemicals. When these are incinerated, air pollution and ash disposal problems are the results.

Therefore, when purchasing your writing products, there are actions that you as a consumer should take when it comes to packaging. First, do not buy "over-packaged" goods or those with multi-layers of packaging. Avoid blister packaging (with the pen, pencil or marker contained inside) whenever possible. This is the type of packaging that has a transparent plastic bubble (made from polyvinyl chloride or polyethylene terephthalate which in all likelihood cannot be placed in your curbside bin to be recycled) which is mounted on a paper or plastic board. Choose products instead without any packaging at all! For example, choose pens, pencils and markers which are placed in a reusable display without being individually

packaged. Look for items sold in bulk or larger size containers. Choose items which use minimal

*We must get away from the purchase-consume-dispose mentality. We need to choose recycled and refillable writing implements. We need to choose packaging that does not create excess waste.*

amounts of packaging material. Sometimes this is achieved simply by manufacturers. They do this by reducing the weight of the package (termed "lightweighting"). Choose packaging that has been recycled. Look closely at the packaging. Most manufacturers will note on their packaging if it is recycled or if minimal packaging is in effect. Choose packaging whenever possible that can be recycled. Recycle it instead of throwing it away!

Finally, look for packaging that is printed with safer soy inks that do not contain non-renewable petroleum.

### TIPS ON CHOOSING PACKAGING

Avoid blister packaging (packaging that has a transparent plastic bubble made from polyvinyl chloride or polyethylene terephthalate mounted on a paper or plastic board).

Choose items which use minimal amounts of packaging material – or none at all.

Choose packaging that has been – or can be – recycled.

Look for packaging that is printed with safer soy inks.



recycled. Recycle it instead of throwing it away!

Finally, look for packaging that is printed with safer soy inks that do not contain non-renewable petroleum.

## Recommended Printing and Writing Papers

MANUFACTURER/ SUPPLIER	BRAND	RECY- CLED	RE- FILL- ABLE	NON- TOXIC	PACKAGING	HOW SUPPLIED, WHERE TO FIND	OTHER
<b>PENS<sup>1</sup></b>							
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Recycled Brass Executive Pen	√	√		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• Up to 25% PC brass • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Recycled Maize Pen	√	√		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• 85% recycled-made from agricultural waste (starch) • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Granite Recycled Retractable Pen	√	√		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box that can be recycled	3,5	• Made from recycled polystyrene (50% PC 50% preconsumer) • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	European Style Retractable Pen	√	√		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• 100% recycled-80% blended plastics, 20% is post commercial blended plastics • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Retractable Recycled Cardboard Pen & Recycled Compressed Paper Stick Pen	√	√ (Cardboard Pen)		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• 30-80% PC cardboard or paper (% depends on availability of recycled fiber) • Cardboard pen has recycled plastic tip and cap and a wood chip clip • Stick Pen does not have cap • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Recycled Office Products, Inc.: 800-814-1100	EarthWriter	√	√		• Recycled corrugated box- 50% PC • Recyclable	3,5	• See notes <sup>8</sup>

### NOTES:

This table contains the information that Green Seal was able to obtain from manufacturers and suppliers. It does not necessarily represent all environmentally responsible products in the covered categories.

PC = postconsumer content

<sup>1</sup> Although not included in our table, refillable fountain pens are an acceptable and recommended product choice. These instruments, however, tend not to be sold in bulk and are generally higher-priced items. Look for pens that can be refilled with the use of bottled ink instead of disposable cartridges. Seek out minimal, recycled and recyclable packaging options.

<sup>2</sup> Available through retail stores.

<sup>3</sup> Available through direct sales.

<sup>4</sup> Available through promotional products dealers.

<sup>5</sup> Available in bulk &/or large numbers.

<sup>6</sup> Available packaged (smaller numbers).

<sup>7</sup> Packaging comes with a business return sticker on it. Consumers can place a stamp on the package & return it for reuse. They have received 12% of all packages back for reuse.

<sup>8</sup> Imprinting available.

## Recommended Printing and Writing Papers

MANUFACTURER/ SUPPLIER	BRAND	RECY- CLED	RE- FILL- ABLE	NON- TOXIC	PACKAGING	HOW SUPPLIED, WHERE TO FIND	OTHER
<b>PENS [CONTINUED]</b>							
Signature Marketing (Supplier): 860-658-7172	Souvenir- Recycled Retractable, Ecol Retractable, Ecol Stick, Ecol Stone	√	√ (except Ecol Stick)		• Recyclable	3,5	• 100% PC recycled paper and plastic, except Recycled Retractable & Ecol Stone which are 80% recycled, post industrial manufacturing waste • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	American Recycled Wooden Pen	√	√		• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• Made from factory "cut offs" from furniture manufacturers, which use responsibly forested & sustained yield wood • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Goodkind Pen Company, Inc.: 207-883-1250	Woody, Screwball, Timbercrank		√	√	• 100% recycled PET • Recyclable • Returnable & reusable <sup>7</sup>	2,4,5,6	• Made from sustained yield (self-certified) wood • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Hummer Nature Works: 830-232-6167	Forest Pens, Enchanted Forest Pens	√	√	√	• Recycled (100% PC) hang tag with green (natural) cotton string	3,5	• Hand-gathered dead wood • Pen refills are of recycled brass • Limited production due to being hand-made
Atlas Pen & Pencil Corp. (Supplier) 800-327-3232	Holiday pens, E-Z Grip, Granite Click Pen, Elite Pen, Monte Marco Monte Prima and others		√		• Minimal	3,5	• See notes <sup>8</sup>
Full Circle Paper Outlet (Supplier): 919-309-0811	Papermate Flexgrip ballpoint, Saga retractable ballpoint, Micro Fashion Rollerball		√		• Most cardboard boxes are recycled • Recyclable • Recovered & reused	3,5,6	
Pilot Corp. Of America: 203-377-8800	EasyTouch, Dr. Grip, BetterGrip, Better Ball Point, Better Retractable, Fastrak		√		• Recycled paperboard	2,5,6	
SLENCIL Co.: 888-753-6245	SLENCIL, Coil Pen, Cord Pen, Clipboard Coil Pen: Pentastic		√		• Bulk in recyclable poly. bags	2,3,5	• Lifetime guarantee • Coil pens attached by a coil to a holder • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Forestsaver: 800-777-9886	Twig Pen	√			• Recyclable cardboard box or scrapwood box.	3,5	• Made from fallen wood gathered as a result of clearing pastures and roads for the highway department. • See notes <sup>8</sup>

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## Recommended Printing and Writing Papers

MANUFACTURER/ SUPPLIER	BRAND	RECY- CLED	RE- FILL- ABLE	NON- TOXIC	PACKAGING	HOW SUPPLIED, WHERE TO FIND	OTHER
<b>PENCILS</b>							
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Recycled Paper Pencil & Round (or Round Neon) Recycled Fiber Pencil	√			• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• 100% recycled, min. 50% PC • Made from recycled paper and other recycled fiber • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Round Recycled Money Pencil & Blue Jean Pencil	√			• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• Blue Jean pencil also available in hexagon shape • Made from ground money or blue jeans-100% recycled, 80-90% PC • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Solid Color Wrapped, Double Wrapped, Awesome Foil Wrapped, Metallic Finish, Color Integrated, & Solid Wrap and Core	√			• Bulk in recycled cardboard box • Recyclable	3,5	• Round pencils • 100% recycled, min. 50% PC • See notes <sup>8</sup>
The John Rossi Company, Inc. (Distributor): 800-984-9317	Paper pencil	√			• Label is made from recycled newspaper • Package of 7 pencils is bound w/recovered (100% PC) bicycle inner tube O-rings	3,5,6	• 100% recycled newspaper and cardboard, 60% PC • Round w/ eraser • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Signature Marketing (Supplier): 860-651-8376	Denim Epcon, Green back Epcon, Recycled Epcon	√			• Recyclable	3,5	• Made from 25% post industrial denim, 25% PC shredded currency currency, or 25% post industrial sawdust • All 93% recycled • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Atlas Pen & Pencil Corp. (Supplier) : 800-327-3232	Eco-writer	√			• Minimal	3,5	• Made from 100% recycled newspaper & cardboard (60 % PC) • Hexagon shape • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Full Circle Paper Outlet (Supplier): 919-309-0811	EcoWriter Pencil	√			• Most cardboard boxes are recycled • Recyclable • Recovered & reused	3,5,6	• 100% recycled, 60% PC from cardboard and newspapers
Sanford (Eberhard Faber): 800-323-0749	EcoWriter	√			May be packaged in recyclable cardboard box	2,4,5,6	• Made from 100% recycled newspaper and cardboard (60% PC)

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## Recommended Printing and Writing Papers

MANUFACTURER/ SUPPLIER	BRAND	RECY- CLED	RE- FILL- ABLE	NON- TOXIC	PACKAGING	HOW SUPPLIED, WHERE TO FIND	OTHER
<b>PENCILS [CONTINUED]</b>							
Sanford(Berol): 800-323-0749	Eagle Recycled	√			• Packaging is 100% recycled cardboard, which can be recycled	2,5,6	• Barrel is 100% recycled material from school lunch trays (PC) and reclaimed wood fibers from frame and door manufacturers • Ferrule is 100% PC recycled aluminum • Surface is unpainted and uncoated to avoid harmful solvents and chemicals
Sanford(Berol) 800-323-0749	Eagle Jeans Pencils	√			May be packaged in recyclable cardboard box	2,5,6	• Pencil is made from reclaimed denim-100% recycled, 25% pre-industrial
Sanford(Berol) 800-323-0749	Eagle Greenbacks	√			May be packaged in recyclable cardboard box	2,5,6	• Pencil is made from paper currency (100% recycled, 25% PC)
Atlas Pen & Pencil Corp. (Supplier) : 800-327-3232	Mechanical pencils & E-Z Grip Mechanical Pencils		√		• Minimal	3,5	• See notes <sup>8</sup>
Pentel of America: 800-421-1419	Forte, Sharp, Econo-Sharp, Sliding Sleeve Sharp, Sharplet-2, Quicker Clicker, Twist-Erase I & II		√		• Recycled, recyclable	2,5,6	• Lifetime warranty • 0.5 mm Premium Hi-Polymer refill lead also packaged in a recycled, recyclable paper tube • Manufacturer claims each lead will last as long as a #2 pencil
Pilot Corp. Of America: 203-377-8800	Dr. Grip, Refillable Pencil #2		√		• Made from recycled paperboard	2,5	
Staedtler: 800-776-5544	Marsmicro, Marstechno, Mars Micrograph, Retro		√	√	• Recyclable cardboard boxes	2,4,5,6	• Manufacturer claims no VOCs are released in the manufacturing process of the pencil leads (German manufacturer)
Dixon Ticonderoga Co.: 800-824-9430	EnviroStik			√	• Made from recycled paperboard • Recyclable	2,5,6	• Made from sustained yield wood • Lacquer free finish & biodegradable imprint
Forestsaver: 800-777-9886	Twig Pencil	√			• Recyclable cardboard box or scrapwood box	3,5	• Made from fallen wood gathered as a result of clearing pastures and roads for the highway department • See notes <sup>8</sup>
Hummer Nature Works: 830-232-6167	Forest Pencil, Enchanted Forest Pencil, Forest Color Pencil, Giant Forest Pencil, Fairy Pencil, Living Forest Pencil				• Recycled (100% PC) hang tag with green (natural) cotton string	3,5	• Hand-gathered deadwood • Manufacturer claims Living Forest pencil support all kinds of moss and lichen • Limited production due to being hand-made

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## Recommended Printing and Writing Papers

MANUFACTURER/ SUPPLIER	BRAND	RECY- CLED	RE- FILL- ABLE	NON- TOXIC	PACKAGING	HOW SUPPLIED, WHERE TO FIND	OTHER
<b>PENCILS [CONTINUED]</b>							
Peavian Logic, Inc.: 808-985-8861	Penikala & KiddieKala			√	• Minimal packaging. Sets are bundled w/rubber band & raffia tie. Tags printed on recycled paper w/soy inks.	3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses hand-collected twigs and branches from the <i>myrica faya</i> tree-an exotic species that threatens native Hawaiian rain forests &amp; rare &amp; exotic species that live there.</li> <li>• Portion of sales donated to conservation organizations and/or programs</li> <li>• Pencil sets</li> </ul>
Sanford (Eberhard Faber): 800-323-0749	American Naturals				May be packaged in recyclable cardboard box	2,5,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made from sustained-yield wood (non-rainforest)</li> </ul>
<b>MARKERS</b>							
Full Circle Paper Outlet (Supplier): 919-309-0811	Stabilo Boss Highlighter		√	√	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most cardboard boxes are recycled</li> <li>• Recyclable</li> <li>• Recovered &amp; reused</li> </ul>	3,5,6	
Pentel of America: 800-421-1419	Snappers		√	√	• Recyclable	2,5,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lifetime guarantee</li> <li>• Non-toxic, water-based, pigment ink product</li> </ul>
Sanford: 800-323-0749	Enviromark	√		√	• Card made from recycled paper, blister made from recycled plastic	2,5,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ink contains soluble food grade dyes</li> <li>• Barrel made from preconsumer recycled plastic molds</li> </ul>
<b>CRAYONS</b>							
Dixon Ticonderoga Co.: 800-824-9430	Prang Crayon			√		2,6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Made from soybeans (a renewable resource)</li> <li>• Biodegradable</li> <li>• Natural, smooth, non-flaking</li> </ul>
Amazing Recycled Products: 800-241-2174	Crazy Crayons	√		√	Available in a re-usable plastic bag	3,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Molded into a designs &amp; have 2 colors per crayon</li> <li>• 100%-Special blend of recycled crayons</li> <li>• See notes<sup>8</sup></li> </ul>

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## GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR *CHOOSE GREEN REPORT*

We at Green Seal want to remind everyone that the purchasing of environmentally responsible products plays a very important role in pollution prevention! You can multiply your efforts to protect the environment by circulating your *Choose Green Report* within your organization.

May we suggest you share your Report by:

- ▶ Sending it to others in your company when you have finished reading it.
- ▶ Placing important information from the report on your internal web sites.
- ▶ Sending it to your purchasing department.
- ▶ Sending it to management. Let them know about your efforts to buy environmentally responsible products and thus help save the environment.

### A CALL FOR SUCCESS STORIES!

Tell us how you are getting the most out of being an Environmental Partner! Let us know how successful your endeavors are and how you are applying the information you receive from your reports!

Write us at Green Seal, 1400 Sixteenth Street, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20036 – or email us at [green seal@green seal.org](mailto:green seal@green seal.org) – or call us at 202-588-8400. We look forward to hearing from you!

## SUPPORTING GREEN SEAL

Green Seal is an independent, nonprofit organization that encourages the purchase of environmentally responsible products and services. It awards its Green Seal Mark to products that cause significantly less harm to the environment than similar products.

Green Seal is funded primarily through the generous support of grants provided from various sources, including government programs, foundations and individuals. Fees resulting from product certification are also comprising a growing amount of this funding.

Your support, too, is needed and appreciated! You can support Green Seal and its efforts by buying Green Seal certified products, encouraging businesses to consider the environment in their daily operations and by making a contribution. Your donation will help Green Seal to continue to provide current, useful advice on greener, responsible products. Contributions, either directly or through your workplace giving campaign, are vital to our continued success!





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#### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- *Overview of pencils, pens, crayons and markers*
- *Plastics*
- *Inks*
- *Packaging*
- ***Recommended Writing Instruments***

**Look for these topics in our next issue  
on Selected Tissue Products . . .**

- **Recycled Content**
- **Bleaching**
- **Deinking**
- **Packaging & Source Reduction**
- **Recommended Products**

